

MIKE'S DINETTES
3629 13th Ave. (Corner 39th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11219
(718) 633-4004
Hours Sun.-Thu.: 11-6 Wed. 11-8 Closed Fri. & Sat.

WE CUSTOM MAKE DINETTE SETS TO FIT YOUR BUDGET!

Come see Our Special Discounts For Selected Items
REF Refund Credit Available w/ AD purchase of Diner Set

Chairs ... Dinettes ...
Tables & Nooks
(made to any size)

23 Years At
The Same Location

Located In The Heart Of Boro Park
כִּי תְּהִלֵּה תְּבִנָה

BISTRITZ HALL
5202 12th AVE.
BROOKLYN, NY 11204
718-435-6397 • 435-6421
Separate Entrances
Exquisite ambience with an emphasis on details
Elegant handpainted wall designs, French doors & mirrors
Ideal for Sheva Brachos, Bar Mitzvahs,
Temanim & Brisim
Complete kitchen facilities available

QUALITY DRUGS
P H A R M E X

4721-16th Ave. • 718-438-1800
Fax Orders Accepted 718-853-6563
Friendly, Heimische, Shomer
Shabbos Staff & Atmosphere

Come and see our
Cosmetic & Fragrance
Dept. including
IL MAKIAGE
& GERADS

Medicaid, including Select & Healthnet, Union Plans Accepted
Senior Citizen & Family Discounts • Free Transfer of Your Prescriptions
Fast Service • We'll Call Your Doctor For Prescriptions
FREE Pickup & Delivery
A LARGE SELECTION OF • Health & Beauty Aids
• Baby Needs • Cosmetics • Candy • Surgical Supplies
• Incontinent & Diabetic Supplies • Full Line of Brand
Name, Generic & Kosher Vitamins

LOW PRICES
Satisfaction
Guaranteed

כתובת חתיכת טוביה

THE BIG THAW

BY SHIFRA PAININ ABRAMSON
GOOD FORTUNE Israel Bureau



My grammar school years were marked by periodic bomb drills — rehearsals for an event we hoped would never take place — in which the entire student body was marched down to the basement, where we stood lined up against the wall until the all-clear signal sounded. While these occasional excursions were no doubt more memorable for relieving the tedium of the classroom than for instilling a fear of nuclear attack, my father's regular fulminations against the Communists, who had taken over his native Russia and wiped out every vestige of Judaism, most definitely imbued me with an abhorrence for the Soviet

Union. And although his confident predictions of the demise of the Soviet Empire sounded fanciful at the time, he has, in this as in so many other areas, indeed been proved correct. For today, after more than seventy years of extraordinary efforts to extirpate Judaism, religious institutions have begun to sprout like grass after rain in the republics of the former Soviet Union. And now, even in remote Siberia, the frigid region that has perhaps come more than anything else to symbolize the cruelty and the repression of the Soviet regime, Jewish communal life has begun to emerge, phoenix-like, from the ashes of destruction.

The revitalization of Judaism in Siberia is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Jerusalem-based Shvat Am Center for Russian Jews — which trains native Russian-speakers for outreach work among their compatriots. When the Center's shaliach, 28-year-old Rabbi Yehuda Weissler, arrived in Novosibirsk, Siberia's capital, in December 1993, he was not prepared for what awaited him. For although he had just come from Kiev, where he was running the yeshivah, the contrast between the two places was startling. Arriving in Siberia from the Ukraine brought almost the same culture shock as arriving in the Ukraine from the West.

The farther that Jews were from the West the more disconnected they were from their past and their heritage. Many of the 15,000 Jews in Novosibirsk (which has an intermarriage rate of over 90 percent) thought that Judaism didn't exist any more.

Nevertheless,

Rabbi Weissler found the remnants of what had once been a Jewish community. An elderly Jew he met, Reb Mendel, who had been drafted into the Red army at age 20 and sent to Siberia, begged him to try to rebuild a proper Jewish community. "After over 50 years of being forced to live like a goy, the Jewish spark inside him still glows," Rabbi Weissler wrote

back to Jerusalem. Rabbi Weissler started holding lectures on basic Judaism. He established a shul with a regular Shabbos minyan followed by dinner. For the elderly participants, the weekly get-together brought back memories. "It is amazing," the rabbi noted, "to see how Jews who have been married to non-Jews all their lives are moved to tears on remembering a Shabbos at home, whether in Minsk, Berditchev, or Novhardok."

Pickup & Delivery Except Thurs. & Fri.

• All types of shoes & sneakers repaired
• We use the finest quality brand name materials
• Suede & Nubuck Shoes cleaned & renewed
• UPS service for our out-of-town customers

BRUNO MAGLI • ENZO • ALDEN • REEBOCK • BALLY • EASY SPIRIT • BRUNO MAGLI • ENZO • ALDEN

Get Ready For
Yom Tov with
M & Z
WHILE-U-WAIT
SHOE REPAIR
& SHOE CARE
CENTER
4606 18TH Avenue
(718) 633-6861
Hours: M-Th 8-7, Sun. 10-6
Fri. 8 until 2 hrs before sundown

FIX ONE PAIR
OF ROCKPORT
SHOES
2ND PAIR IS
1/2 PRICE

FOR YESHIVA STUDENTS - 10% OFF ANY REPAIR

Siberia's Jews Four Years After Communism's Meltdown



Beautiful Bumper Sets...
Register early for
the arrival of your
Golden Baby!
FREE GIFT
w/\$100
purchase!

Coordinated Linens... Bunk Beds... Lamps... High Chairs... Play Pens... Cradles... Bassinets... Swings... Dressers... Cribs... Gliders... Cheerful Accessories...

Golden Babies
Personal Room Designs
EASY TO ENJOY...
HARD TO RESIST!

We feature a complete array
of quality furniture
to complement your lifestyle
and capture the hearts and
imagination of your children...
Nursery, Toddler, Teenager
CONTEMPORARILY MODERN...
TRADITIONALLY CLASSIC
Our collection offers the
perfect blend of style & comfort
BEAUTIFUL, YET FUNCTIONAL
Our experienced staff will help
you coordinate the perfect
setting for the perfect room
YOUR SPACE... YOUR PLACE...
YOUR PACE
Create a lasting memory for your
most precious treasures... your
GOLDEN BABIES
1078 EAST 26TH STREET
BROOKLYN, N.Y.
718-253-1995
SUN. 10:00 - 5:00
MON.-WED. 10:00 - 4:00
EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Bedroom Arrangements

THE LATEST IN NUTRITION & KASHRUS

THE HIGHEST IN QUALITY AND REASONABLE IN PRICE

*FEM CAL (for Women & Men) Complete Calcium Formula

*QUINTABS M Vitamin-Mineral formula

ANTI-ALLERGY formula - be comfortable

20% OFF: mention this ad. Order Today.

1-800-777-3737

for free information booklet & \$2.00 Coupon

FREEDA VITAMINS ARE BORN FREE

36 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10017

NEW SQUARE KOSHER
CERTIFICATION

SAY, "MAZEL TOV"
WITH FLOWERS!



REMEMBER YOUR
LOVED ONES FOR —
Shabbos • Yom Tov • Simchas
WE DELIVER BEAUTIFUL
FLORAL BOUQUETS
ALL AROUND TERUMAHATIM

Reasonable Rates
Call (718) 896-3364

BIG THAW

Welcome Home!

You've had enough
of the country
and enough of the
broken bungalows!
Come home and
make sure your
house is nice and
comfortable!



At Sander's you'll find the largest & nicest selection
of high-quality, reasonably priced

DINETTE SETS up to 40% OFF

that will set your kitchen/dinette apart from the crowd

Our Beautiful Showroom Is Now Ready For You With Spectacular
New Designs Williamsburg Has Never Seen Before!

LOW-LOW
PRICES
ON:

MATTRESS
as low as
\$85

Also Featuring Top-of-the-Line
Sealy Posturepedic Mattresses

RECLINERS
as low as
\$139

Also Featuring La-Z-Boy
Recliners At Discount Prices

BRAND NAME SOFA BEDS AT DISCOUNT PRICES
Come in & select from our big, beautiful selection. Your eyes
won't believe our amazing prices!

MasterCard &
Visa accepted

SANDER'S
FURNITURE
INC.

40 PENN STREET • 718-624-3400

WE CARRY ONLY THE BEST!

L. Porgesz
(718) 384-2276

A MUST SEE!

Come Early for Best Selection!
We accept quality dresses
in great condition only
for resale.

WE CARRY ONLY THE BEST!

MAGNIFICENT
COLLECTION OF
GENTLY USED
CHASUNA DRESSES

L. Porgesz
(718) 384-2276

A MUST SEE!

Come Early for Best Selection!
We accept quality dresses
in great condition only
for resale.

WE CARRY ONLY THE BEST!

home, his father has begged him not to forget he was Jewish. To this day, not a single day passes that he doesn't say *Modah Ani* and *Hamalach HaGadol*. "Un mit does bin ich geblieben a Yid," — that is how I remained a Jew — he states simply.

Rabbi Weissler has set up a kollel, where nine men of various ages are devoting themselves full-time to Torah study. They started with the *alef beis*, proceeded to Jewish thought, history, *Chumash*, and Hebrew, and are now studying *mishna*. With the help of Rabbi Reuven Gardner of France, an expert in *mikvaot*, a public bath house has been converted into a *mikvah* — the first in Siberia in 50 years.

Dubbed the "chief rabbi" of Siberia, Rabbi Weissler rides the circuit to other Jewish communities in Siberia — Barnaul, Omsk, Tomsk, Kemova, Irkutsk, Birobidjan, Novokuznets, Chabarovsky. They have a total of some 100,000 Jews, mostly refugees from Lithuania and White Russia, but also some from the Asian Republics. Virtually all now have organized prayers every Shabbos and some semblance of Jewish life. He has also been arranging circumcisions, bringing in *mohekim* from England or other places.

Rabbi Weissler recently arranged a circumcision in Omsk, which was widely publicized as the first public Bris performed on an eight-day old baby since the Bolshevik Revolution. It was heralded in the local newspaper and on television as a historic event. The rabbi made an urgent request to arrange a visa for a Manchester *mohekim*. Rabbi Shmuel Goldberg. Although it usually takes two weeks, a sympathetic Russian official at the embassy expedited the process with the assistance of London's Russian Immigrant Aid Fund. Rabbi Goldberg flew to Moscow, and proceeded to Omsk by car. The ceremony took place in the shul, a small wooden building heated by an open wood fire. The older men, who had despaired of ever witnessing a Bris again, wept.

Reb Gershon, 70 years old, had been yearning for a Bris for a long time. But when the *mohekim* came, he discovered that Gershon had been circumcised as a baby but never knew it. His parents

BIG THAW

evidently had the Bris performed secretly but were too frightened to ever tell him.

The first time Gershon came to Shabbos services and saw the dinner table, he began to weep. He explained that the last time he saw anything like that was almost 60 years ago. Every Friday night, all the adults would gather in their home and go inside a room for a few hours. He did not know what took place behind the closed doors because children were not allowed to enter. Once he caught a glimpse, but never dared to ask for an explanation. But when he saw the set Shabbos table all these many years later, he remembered it immediately.

In Tomsk, Rabbi Weissler

The Spanish Inquisition

based on Marcus Lehman's
"Family Y'Agur"
performed in English

NEW LINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A PLAY BY SHLOMO PERL
KIPPY ELBOGEN AARON MINTZ IN "THE SPANISH INQUISITION"

DOVID NEWMAN MENYED EDER BENTZY ROSENBERG NAFTALI SOLOMON
YITZHAK ELBOGEN DAVID KLAVER AND YOSSI NEIMAN AS "FERNANDO"
MUSIC BY NACHMAN ROSEN LYRICS BY PAMA KLEIN COSTUME & SET DESIGN BY AVI FRANCK
MAKEUP BY HENNY RODNER & YOEL ARONOFF VIDEOPHOTOGRAPHY BY SHUAJ BODOR LIRM STUDIOS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS YOSSI NEIMAN AND MATAN RISCHL CASTING BY YOSSI NEIMAN AND SHAUL BENI
NARRATION BY COUNTRY YOSSI PRODUCTION COORDINATION BY AVI FRANCK

WRITTEN BY AVI FRANCK AND SHAUL BENI
PRODUCED BY YOSSI NEIMAN
DIRECTED BY SHLOMO PERL
with Emree Country Yossi

© 1995 NEW LINE ENTERTAINMENT CORP.

NE PRODUCED BY YOSSI NEIMAN
DIRECTED BY SHLOMO PERL

separate seating
Wed. only

CHOL HAMOED SUCCOS

TUESDAY, 9/11 תשרי, OCT. 10, 1995 9:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11, 1995 7:00 PM
THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 1995 7:00 PM

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

WALT WHITMAN AUDITORIUM • NOSTRAND AVE. & AVE. H

TICKET PRICES: \$18, \$20, \$25, \$30
separate & family seating available • Wed. night separate seating only

FLATBUSH
Heichel Hassidim
1122 Avenue J
Melech Gelfen
1917 Avenue M
CROWN HEIGHTS
Judah World
325 Hamilton Ave.
Boro Park
Avi's Judaica
Treasures
4514 New Strand Ave.

Hoffy's Electronics
Klez Beikis
1521 12th Ave.
Fabulous Electronics
4622 18th Ave.
Schnit's Grocery
5502 18th Ave.
Orner Neuman
Opticians
3908 13th Ave.
1514 New Strand Ave.

FAIR ROCKAWAY
Klez Beikis
1847 Myrtle St.
Avenue
Box 521 5 5200
MONSEY
Tova's
199 18th St.
QUEENS
Gefilte World
72-20 Main St.
LAKWOOD
Lubavitch Hasidim
Judice

1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.

1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.

1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.

1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.
1408 18th Ave.

FOR CREDIT CARD, GROUP SALES & ADVERTISING, CALL 718/851-5276 / 851-5750
PARTIAL PROFIT TO BENEFIT MESVAT TORAS MOSHE • NO AUDIO OR VIDEO EQUIPMENT PERMITTED

STAIN REMOVAL EXPERTS • STAIN REMOVAL EXPERTS

ORDINARY CLEANERS
CAN CLEAN A GARMENT,
BUT TO REMOVE THE STAINS!
THAT'S THE SECRET.

R. NEDWIN
EXPERT DRY CLEANER

HAS THAT SECRET!

...and the necessary skills to remove
virtually any stain, and the knowledge
and ability to dry clean
and restore your garments...

TO LOOK AS GOOD AS NEW!

Offering excellence gained through
45 YEARS of experience in stain removal.

"WE'RE JUST BETTER!"

4020 18th Ave., B'klyn., NY 11219

(between East 4th & East 5th St.)
located conveniently between Flatbush & Boro Park

(718) 853-3596

We honor:
Entertainment Card—up to 50% off
Times Card—15% off • Consumer's Gold Card—15% off
• cannot be combined with any other offer •

STAIN REMOVAL EXPERTS • STAIN REMOVAL EXPERTS

BORO PARK'S FURNITURE DISCOUNT CENTER
LIVING ROOMS, MATTRESSES, SOFA BEDS, KITCHEN SETS



\$25.00 OFF PURCHASE (Minimum) \$400
VALID ONLY FOR NEW PURCHASES
EE, 9/15/95 thru 10/15/95

HOUSEKEEPING DISCOUNT CO.
4201 13TH AVENUE 853-7054

Danielle A.

5012 13th Ave. Brooklyn

(718) 633-8226

Hrs. Sun-Thurs 10:30-7 • Fri 10-2 hours before Shabbat

Suits Galore
Have Arrived For
Yom Tov, Weddings &
Sheva Brachos!

Special for
Back-To-School:
Large selection of
WOOL SKIRTS —
Straight, wrap, flair
and pleated styles
With matching vests
and jackets

Big section of LUCIA
mix and match outfits

Angora Sweaters &
other winter sweaters

FALL FASHIONS BY
RAFAELLA
CLEARANCE SALE
ON ALL SUMMER
MERCHANDISE
UP TO
60% OFF!



TOVI'S WIGS

Specializing in a Natural Look

EXPERT CUTTING & STYLING

BRAND NAME WIGS

Call for day or evening appointments 718-253-7892

guaranteed low prices!

שנה טובות

"Classified" Doesn't Always Mean "SECRET"

With GOOD FORTUNE'S new classified ad section, your products and services will be anything but secret. A GOOD FORTUNE classified is easy, economical, and a sure way to reach tens of thousands of interested readers.

For further information or to place a classified ad in our next issue, call

(718) 438-0939.

Major credit cards accepted.

The Staff Of Good Fortune Magazine Would Like To Wish All Our Readers A Very Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year
כל תיבה וחתינה טيبة

"Classified" doesn't Always Mean "SECRET"

With GOOD FORTUNE'S new classified ad section, your products and services will be anything but secret. A GOOD FORTUNE classified is easy, economical, and a sure way to reach tens of thousands of interested readers. For further information or to place a classified ad in our next issue, call

(718) 438-0939.

Major credit cards accepted.

BIG JEW

in for criminal activity according to the supervisor, are Jewish.

"The colony covers an area of over two kilometers and is completely surrounded by a fifteen-foot high concrete wall with armed guards. In watchtowers every couple of hundred meters. Although I was apprehensive, I was not prepared for the sight which met my eyes. A couple of hundred skeletal beings, mostly with shaved heads, dressed in filthy ragged uniforms, many with open sores on their faces, watched me through large, staring eyes.

"Their bed was a rag on the concrete floor. Sanitation consisted of a hole in the ground outside. The dirt and the stench was indescribable. There is no heating — even in winter when the temperature reaches minus 35 degrees. This scene, so comparable to the sights of the concentration camps, will be printed in my mind forever.

"I was then taken to the prison 'club room' (a hall with 300 seats), where I spoke to the Jewish prisoners for almost an hour. I told them about the *Asseres Hadibros* and that however low a Jew falls, he will always remain a Jew, and Hashem will always love him. I explained to them... that if one believes in G-d, one gains strength and can withstand all tests. It is never too late to repent for one's sins. The gates of teshuvah never close.

"The impact I had on them was clearly visible. About 15 of them came to speak to me. Every one of them told me that it is the first time since their imprisonment that they felt that someone cared for them and they had been spoken to warmly and in a civilized manner. Most of them told me that when they are free they will want to find out more about their religion and their origins. My visit to give chizuk to these pitiful beings with Yiddisheh neshomos was such a humbling experience, I shall never forget it."

Rabbi Weissler's words have brought more than a few tears to those of us in Israel who regularly read his reports. Confronted with such stories, one can only marvel at the stubborn tenacity and indomitable spirit that kept alive a faint Jewish spark to light the darkness of the Communist regime — and which is now being fanned into a softly glowing flame. □

For Beautiful Clothes,
For This Beautiful Time of Year,
For This Beautiful Time of Your Life,

FUTURE MOM MATERNITY

1431 54th STREET
718-851-7125



WILLIAMSBURG

51 Lee Ave.
718/388-7005
SUN-THURS 11-7, FRI, 11-2

LAKWOOD

SHIFRA EIDER
908/363-3965
S-M-W 12-4 or by appt.

HOURS: SUN-THURS 11-5, MON & WED. EVE 7-9, FRI, 11-2

Rather Than A Basket
Of Sweets, Pick Up A
Basket At Our "Suite" ...



Ready-made or
customized
baby gift baskets
available
starting at
\$25



1736 - 46th Street
(718) 871-8905

Hours:

Sun. - Thurs.: 11am-6pm Fri.: 11am-2pm
Evening & After Hour Appointments Welcome

Have You
Read A
CIS
BOOK
LATELY?